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APR 18 2006
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

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ASA-5050

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Y. YAMAMOTO, et al

Serial No.: 10/683,688

Filed: October 9, 2003

For: STORAGE SYSTEM THAT IS CONNECTED TO EXTERNAL STORAGE

Group: 2185

Examiner: Y. Campos

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.97 & 1.98

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 18, 2006

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance and is accompanied by the following certification specified in 37 CFR §1.97(e):

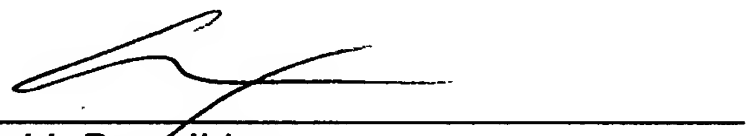
On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

Each of the documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 is in the English language.

It is respectfully requested that this information disclosure statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (ASA-5050) please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CIB/jdc
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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)	APPLICANT	
	FILING DATE	GROUP

PTO PE IAP68 APR 18 2006 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	ABSTRACT	
													YES	NO
	1	1	3	2	8	0	5	A 2	09/01	European				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

(Form PTO-1449 [6-4])